which occurs in the park over a cycle of 7-8 years, some damage to both infrastructure and wildlife takes place. Various short-term and long-term measures taken to save the wildlife at KNP include:

1. Dovetailing the efforts of the Government, Non-government Organisations and public for watch and ward and rescue of animals.

2. Intensifying patrolling in vulnerable areas and establishing temporary camps wherever necessary.

3. Regulating speed of vehicles by erecting barriers on National Highway (NH) 37 and round-the-clock monitoring the movement of animals crossing the NH-37.

4. Pressing into service Mobile Animal Rescue Van.

5. Periodic desiltation of water bodies.

6. Construction of artificial highlands in the park.

Tribals residing in protected forest in Tripura

2124. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several thousands of tribal people have been residing in the Reserved Forest and Protected Forest of Tripura from the time immemorial;

(b) whether it is also a fact that those people have not got the order of settlement on account of the Forest Act of the country; and

(c) what steps will be taken to ensure them their right to forest land intimately connected with their ways of life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) According to the National Forest Policy 1988, the Central Government recognises the customary rights and interests of the tribal people residing in the forest area. As far as settlement proceedings are concerned, these are carried out by the respective State Governments under the Indian Forest Act 1927, and Reserved Forests are declared only after completion of the settlement of rights.